

Jonathan Hill, *Christianity: How a Tiny Sect from a Despised Religion Came to Dominate the Roman Empire*. Minneapolis: Fortress Press (www.fortresspress.com), 2011.

This is an attractive historical survey of the first four centuries of the Christian era. Hill, a British scholar and writer, divides this key period into four segments:

1. The Founding of Christianity; 2. The movement of the early church out into the Greco-Roman world and the experience of persecutions; 3. The advent of the Constantinian era and the experience of division; and 4. The attempt to articulate Christian dogma. He stresses that his viewpoint is purely historical and while he states

the various theological and faith dimensions of emergent Christianity with respect and accuracy, he avoids exploring such issues in depth or from a particular faith viewpoint. Those who would enjoy a solid and vividly illustrated historical survey of this period will appreciate this coffee table style study.